

REMARKS

In the specification, paragraph [0001] has been amended to update the status and patent number of the patent application mentioned therein. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action mailed June 1, 2006, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 6, 8, and 11 through 14 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 6, 8, and 11 through 14 stand rejected. Applicants have amended claims 1, 13, and 14, and respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended herein. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

Claims 1 through 6, 8, and 11 through 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Double brackets were used in the previous amendment to indicate replacement of a period with a semicolon in claims 1 and 13. However, it appears that the version of the amendment received by the Examiner had quotation marks in these claims rather than double brackets. In the current amendment, the strike-through feature has been used to indicate the deletion of the period in claims 1 and 13.

Claim 14 at line 3 has been amended to replace “or” with “and.”

In light of these amendments, withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejections of claims 1, 13, and 14 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 5,280,706 to Yorgason in View of U.S. Patent No. 6,679,965 to Thompson *et al.*

Claims 1 through 6, 8, and 11 through 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,280,706 to Yorgason (“Yorgason”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,679,965 to Thompson *et al.* (“Thompson”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

The Examiner states that Yorgason “substantially teaches the claimed invention, however is silent in regards to the article’s density.” Office Action of June, 1, 2006, p. 3. As such, the

Examiner acknowledges that Yorgason does not teach or suggest the limitation in claim 1 of “a pre-preg material comprising a reinforcement impregnated with a thermosetting resin, the composite article having a specific density ranging from approximately 1.00 g/ml to approximately 1.15 g/ml.” The Examiner relies on Thompson as teaching “that it is known in the art to form articles such as taught by the primary reference, with low densities as claimed” and states that it would have been obvious to combine Yorgason and Thompson. *Id.*

However, the Examiner’s reliance on Thompson to reject the pending claims is not proper because Thompson is not prior art to the present application. Rather, the present application is a continuation application of Thompson. *See page 3 supra.* Accordingly, Applicants submit that Thompson may not be relied upon to reject the claims of the present application.

Since Yorgason does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, as acknowledged by the Examiner, the obviousness rejection of claim 1 is improper and should be withdrawn. Claims 2 through 6, 8, 11, 12, and 14 are allowable, *inter alia*, as depending from an allowable base claim.

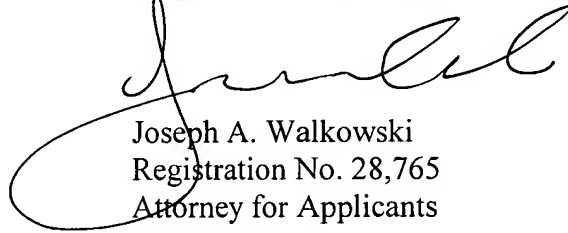
Since independent claim 13 recites substantially the same limitation as described above, claim 13 is allowable for substantially the same reasons as claim 1.

As an additional matter, Applicants note that United States Patent No. 6,711,901 to Canfield *et al.* (“Canfield”) is not prior art to the above-referenced application. The Examiner states that Canfield is prior art that is pertinent but not relied upon. Office Action of June 1, 2006, p. 4. However, as explained in Applicants’ response filed on November 8, 2005, Canfield has a later filing date than the effective filing date of the above-referenced application. Therefore, it is improper for the Examiner to characterize Canfield as prior art to the above-referenced application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 6, 8, and 11 through 14 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain that might be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Walkowski', is written over the typed name and title.

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Date: August 22, 2006
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